



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

A Special Place in Alaska!

- Alaska Peninsula Refuge was established in 1980 to conserve land mammals including brown bears, moose and the Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd; sea otters and other marine mammals; shorebirds and other migratory birds; raptors including bald eagles and peregrine falcons; and salmon and other fish.
- The refuge is a land of spectacular beauty with rolling tundra, braided rivers, glacial lakes, towering mountains, active volcanoes, rugged sea cliffs, and pristine coastlines. Land elevations range from sea level to the summit of Mt. Veniaminof Volcano at 8,225 feet. The refuge encompasses approximately 4.3 million acres.
- Refuge lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities including sport fishing and hunting, flight seeing, observing and photographing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, boating, and camping. This country is remote and accessible only by small aircraft, boat or rugged cross-country hiking. There are no roads or maintained trails.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 16 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, or nearly 82% of the National Wildlife Refuge System acreage.

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June 2002



USFWS

Mt. Chiginagak across Mother Goose Lake.

- The Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd is one of 13 major herds within the state. The northern unit of this herd migrates and lives from King Salmon south to Port Moller, which includes the Alaska Peninsula Refuge and the adjacent Becharof Refuge. Herd size fluctuates naturally and has varied from 2,000 to 20,000 animals during the past 50 years.
- Over 200 species of birds are year-round or part-year residents. Numerous swans, geese and ducks migrate through the refuge, while loons, grebes and sandhill cranes nest on marshes and lakes. Thousands of shorebirds, including godwits, sandpipers and dunlins migrate along the peninsula during spring and fall. The coastal cliffs are ideal habitat for colonies of seabirds such as cormorants, kittiwakes, murres, and puffins. Birds of prey found on the refuge include bald eagles, peregrine falcons and owls.
- Moose are relative newcomers to the Alaska Peninsula. They have been observed since the early 1900s but did not become abundant until the 1950s.
- Five species of Pacific salmon (king, coho, sockeye, pink and chum) spawn in the streams and lakes on the refuge. The salmon runs begin in June and continue to September in Bristol Bay and into December in the Chignik area. There are more than 1,000 salmon producing streams on the refuge. A conservative estimate of the number of adult salmon produced annually from waters on the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof refuges exceeds 30 million fish.
- Many local residents including Alaska Native people (Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Yup'ik Eskimo) depend on the refuge to subsistence fish, hunt, trap, and gather berries.